GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:257
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD AREAS
Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrially backward districts in the country,State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has issued any policy guidelines and formulated an action plan for the industrial development of backward areas;

(c) if so,the details thereof;

(d) whether there have been instances of delays/non-compliance in adhering to these guidelines and if so,the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to set up industrial units in the backward districts of Bihar and Orissa during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed location of the aforesaid units and the time frame by which such units are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.257 for answer on 16.12.2008 regarding Industrial Development of Backward Areas.

(a): As per the exercise undertaken by the Planning Commission in 2005 for the purpose of their Scheme `Backward District Grant Fund`,170 districts in various States of India were identified as backward districts (list enclosed).

(b) & (c): No policy guidelines have been issued.However,with a view to focussing on district specific cases of industrial backwardness, interdepartmental meetings have been held and the relevant data available is being analyzed to finalize and implement concrete policy decisions to address purposively the cases of industrial backwardness in various districts in a calibrated manner.

(d): Does not arise.

(e)& (f): After the announcement of New Industrial Policy in 1991,decisions of investment have been left to the commercial judgment of the entrepreneurs. The role played by the Government has changed from that of exercising control to providing help and guidance by making essential procedures fully transparent and by eliminating delays. The initiative for industrial development of backward areas primarily lies on the State Governments. The Union Government supplement their effort through various schemes which play an important role in stimulating flow of capital to the backward areas.